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Approx. 400 words

AN UNFORGETTABLE MAN

by

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A rugged farmer, tall, gaunt and wiry, stern of jaw but with a friendly twinkle in his close set eyes sat languidly on the broken porch steps of the old house long in need of paint. Wherever he looked repair was needed on house, barn and fences but when questioned about their condition, the reply was always the same, - "Well, I'm goin' to fix 'em but I ain't had time".

What a contradiction he was as he sat there watching tenderly the bōy mare in the nearby pasture.

Lazy? No, definitely no for when engaged in a project he worked tirelessly and competently. Weak? No. For miles around no one could carry personally as great a load on his back as this gaunt man. Selfish? No. No task was too difficult if it was to help a friend but he just couldn't get started on his own repair projects.

Seemingly disregarding his neighbors unless his assistance was needed, he was forever mindful of them. Of this you were confident as you listened to him each morning on his knees beside the carefully appointed breakfast table.

Having devoured a rapidly diminishing stack of pancakes, made by the neatly dressed wife as she presided - in the immaculate kitchen - over the griddle (heating on a wood fire in a well polished old time stove), he would thrust from him his cleaned plate, his thrice-filled coffee cup, grab